Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALGIER 02035 112032Z ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /072 W

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R 111207Z JUL 78 FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8805 INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR AMEMBASSY PARIS AMEMBASSY RABAT AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT, MR, AG

SUBJECT: ALGERIA NON-COMMITAL TO MAURITANIAN COUP

REF: STATE 173958

SUMMARY: GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED MEDIA REPORTED MAURITANIAN COUP IN STRAIGHT-FORWARD MANNER WITH "AUTHORIZED" SOURCE ADOPTING WAIT AND SEE ATTITUDE. POLISARIO SPOKESMAN WAS ALSO NON-COMMITAL, SAYING THAT WITHOUT MORE INFORMATION HE COULD NOT COMMENT ON THE CHANGES IN MAURITANIA. END SUMMARY.

- 1. GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED MEDIA HERE HAVE BEEN NON-COMMITAL REGARDING MAURITANIAN COUP. WHILE COUP HAS BEEN GIVEN RADIO, TV AND FRONT PAGE PRESS TREATMENT, FACTS AS GIVEN BY INTERNATIONAL PRESS MEDIA AND RADIO NOUAK-CHOTT HAVE BEEN REPORTED WITHOUT EMBELLISHMENT. COMPOSITION OF GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL REDRESS ALSO PUBLISHED.
- 2. IN ADDITION, PRESS REPORTED REACTIONS TO COUP IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FRANCE AND "ABSOLUTE SILENCE" IN RABAT.

3. PRESS QUOTED "AUTHORIZED" ALGERIAN SPOKESMAN WHO DECLARED THAT GOA IS FOLLOWING "WITH ATTENTION" THE EVOLUTION OF THE COMPLEX SITUATION IN MAURITANIA. THE SAME SPOKESMAN OBSERVED THAT IT IS DESIRABLE THAT "NO COMPLICATING ELEMENTS INTERVENE" IN THE SITUATION.

4. COMMENT: GOA OFFICIALS APPEAR TO BE MUCH IN THE DARK ABOUT THE COUP AND HAVE EVEN ASKED US TO INFORM THEM ON MAURITANIAN EVENTS.HAYNES

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